

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A glass plate manufacturing method for manufacturing a glass plate by forming molten glass into a sheet using the downdraw method and subjecting the obtained sheet glass to slow cooling using a heat treating unit;

wherein a strain reduction process to reduce strain occurring in the sheet glass due to ~~the~~a temperature difference between the edge areas and the surface area in the widthwise direction of the sheet glass is carried out during the slow cooling, and

wherein an extension process, that reduces strain occurring from the surface area to the edge areas by increasing the amount of extension of the edge areas relative to the amount of extension of the surface area in accordance with a heat contraction difference occurring between the edge areas and the surface area in the widthwise direction of the sheet glass, is carried out as the strain reduction process.

2. (Original) The glass plate manufacturing method according to claim 1, wherein the temperature difference occurs between the center region of the surface area and the edge areas.

3. (Previously Presented) The glass plate manufacturing method according to claim 1, wherein the sheet glass subjected to slow cooling exhibits a widthwise temperature distribution such that the surface area has a lower temperature than the edge areas.

4. (Currently Amended) The glass plate manufacturing method according to claim 1, wherein the strain reduction ~~processing is carried out~~process comprises a process which measures strain distribution in the post-molding glass plate in advance using the optical heterodyne method, and reduces the strain in the widthwise direction of the sheet glass

based on the measured strain distribution ~~in the post molding glass plate measured in advance~~
using the optical heterodyne method.

5. (Currently Amended) The glass plate manufacturing method according to claim 1, ~~wherein the strain reduction process comprises~~ wherein a heat treatment; that forms a prescribed temperature distribution in the widthwise direction of the sheet glass so that the ~~temperature difference~~ strain in the widthwise direction of the sheet glass after molding is reduced, ~~when the sheet glass after molding is subjected to slow cooling by means of the heat treating unit~~ is further carried out as the strain reduction process.

6. (Original) The glass plate manufacturing method according to claim 5, wherein the heat treatment is carried out at least during a process in which the sheet glass is slowly cooled from the molding temperature to a temperature near the strain point.

7. (Original) The sheet glass manufacturing method according to claim 5, wherein the heat treatment is a process in which the temperature distribution that is formed, in the widthwise direction of the sheet glass, by the heat treating unit for heating the sheet glass is set such that the temperature difference in the widthwise direction of the sheet glass may be reduced.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The glass plate manufacturing method according to claim 1, wherein the glass plate is a glass substrate used in a display apparatus.

11. (Currently Amended) A glass plate manufacturing apparatus comprising:
a molding unit that molds molten glass provided continuously from a molten glass storage tank into a sheet;

a drawing unit that draws down the sheet glass molded by the ~~the~~ molding unit and existing in a softened state; and

a strain reduction unit that reduces the strain caused by the temperature difference occurring from the edge areas to the surface area in the widthwise direction of the sheet glass;

wherein the strain reduction unit has:

a heat treating unit that slowly cools the sheet glass after molding; and

a controlling unit that performs control to ensure that the amount of extension of the edge areas is larger than the amount of extension of the surface area in accordance with the temperature difference from the surface area to the edge areas of the sheet glass that is being slowly cooled by the heat treating unit.

12. (Currently Amended) The glass plate manufacturing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the ~~strain reduction unit~~heat treating unit comprises a unit that ~~slowly cools the sheet glass after molding, and~~ sets in the widthwise direction of the sheet glass a temperature distribution that reduces the ~~temperature difference~~ strain in the widthwise direction of the post-molding sheet glass.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal device comprising liquid crystal held between a pair of glass plates having reduced strain formed using the glass plate manufacturing method according to claim 1.

15. (Canceled)